

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
AND SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 26, 2009

INFORMATION SHARING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

A child's death is always a tragedy, never more so than when the death was intentional or preventable. The welfare of children and the overall well-being of families is the shared responsibility of all County departments and community partners. Pursuant to my June 24, 2008 motion co-authored by Supervisor Molina, the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with a variety of County departments developed recommendations to automate information-sharing about clients served within County departments and other government agencies; and for necessary legislative changes to address its prohibitions. One of those recommendations is to implement technical enhancements and seek legislative change to expand the County's Family and Children Index (FCI).

Established through Assembly Bill 3491 (Gotch) in 1991 by the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, FCI is Los Angeles County's computerized interagency information system. It is a centralized database that ties together basic data about families and children who have had relevant contact with participating public agencies; and who have been identified as at-risk for abuse or neglect by these agencies. Welfare and Institutions Code 18961.5 authorizes counties to establish a computerized database system to allow specified provider agencies to share certain identifying information regarding families at-risk for child abuse or neglect for the purpose of forming multi-disciplinary personnel teams. AB 3491 allows provider agencies and multidisciplinary personnel teams access to this information when they believe such information is relevant to the prevention, identification or treatment of child abuse or neglect.

M O R E

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

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County departments currently participating in FCI are the District Attorney; the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department; and the Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, Probation, Mental Health and Public Health. However, in addition to the fact that FCI is currently under-utilized by some of its member departments, it requires further enhancements to both its membership and applications in order to reach its full potential.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors directs the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Interagency Council of Child Abuse and Neglect and affected County agencies, to report back in 14 days on:

- (1) The current use of FCI by each of its participating public agencies;
- (2) The training and instruction necessary for participating agencies to increase and maximize their utilization of FCI; and
- (3) The planned enhancements to both FCI's membership and applications, including those that require legislative change to implement.

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MDA:hbb

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